

THE TRUE NORTHERNER.

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SENATOR BLAIR has introduced a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution providing that neither the United States nor any state shall authorize the establishment of any lottery or the distribution of prizes by chance, and conferring upon Congress the power to enforce the provisions of such amendment by appropriate legislation. Such action would, we believe, meet with general favor and that the amendment would be promptly ratified by the required number of states, there can be little doubt.

IT WOULD seem that the recent "original package" decision of the United States Supreme Court was not, after all, to carry with it absolute, unalloyed, solid comfort to the hearts of either the Third Party Prohibitionists or the liquor dealers of Iowa. In his charge to the grand jury of Story county, a few days since, referring to the above mentioned decision, Judge Hindman said that "the state has the inherent right to prohibit and abate nuisance; that no person has a right in Iowa to keep a place for the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, whether in the original package or otherwise," and that "with this unquestioned state right, or police power, the Interstate Commerce act has nothing whatever to do." This is a new view of the question, as affecting the traffic in states wherein the statutes prohibit the "keeping and maintaining of a place for the sale of intoxicating beverages," and the result of cases which are sure to arise under that judicial interpretation of the late decision will be awaited with interest. It renders the situation in Iowa this: The Supreme Court of the United States decide that under the Interstate Commerce act liquors may be shipped into Iowa in the original package. Well, now the liquors are in the state, but what is to be done with them? The Iowa statutes prohibit any person from "keeping or maintaining a place for the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage," and the right of the state to regulate its own internal police system is, of course, unquestioned, and the recent "original package" decision does not refer to that inherent right in the remotest degree.

Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 23, 1890.

The President, like everybody else, is glad that the House has disposed of the troublesome tariff question. There are two other things which the President wishes to see done before adjournment: one is to pass a pension bill, and the other to provide the means for carrying out the recommendations of the recent Pan-American Congress relating to close commercial relations between the United States and the countries of Central and South America. As a starter in the latter direction, the President this week sent a special message to Congress asking that the amount estimated as the quota of the United States of the expense of making the preliminary survey of the proposed trans-continental railway be appropriated. This railway is one of the grandest projects of the age, and prominent engineers have expressed the opinion that it is entirely practicable. To build it would make a fitting close to the nineteenth century, the most remarkable hundred years in the history of the world, and its beginning at this time will make the Harrison administration occupy a proud place in the pages of American history.

The conference committee having charge of the two pension bills, which have respectively passed the House and the Senate, have not yet reached an agreement, but the spirit of the discussion has been such as to remove all doubts of an early agreement. This is disappointing to nobody but the Democrats, who are opposed to pension legislation of any kind.

Secretary Blaine has accepted an invitation to deliver an address to the second Scotch-Irish Congress, which is to meet at Pittsburgh on the 29th inst. Among the other speakers will be Governor Beaver, Representative Breckenridge of Kentucky and Governor Campbell, of Ohio.

Silver and the "original package" questions, as represented in bills before that body, have taken up most of the senate's time this week.

Ex-Speaker Carlisle takes the late Senator Beck's place on the Finance committee.

No agreement yet in the pension conference committee.

Senator Stanford has introduced a bill embodying his ideas of the solution of the agricultural problem. It provides for the establishment in the Treasury department of a land loan bureau, which shall be empowered to loan on unincumbered agricultural land one-half of its assessed value at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, no loans to run longer than twenty years. The idea has more advocates out of than in Congress, and there is not the slightest probability of its becoming a law during the life of the present Congress.

Chairman McKinley has received congratulations from all quarters for the able generalship he displayed in the management of the tariff bill; not a single amendment proposed outside of the committee was adopted, and only two of those which came from the committee were defeated—those affecting jute and wool. This was a remarkable showing, but much more remarkable still was the fact that when the final vote was taken, only two Republicans—Coleman, of Louisiana, and Featherstone, of Arkansas—voted against the bill which was passed by a vote of 164 to 142. Democratic predictions of a Republican revolt in the House having so signally failed, they have begun on the Senate.

Senator Ingalls thinks ten years, undisputed possession of real estate should give a good title to the same, and he has introduced a bill to that effect.

Building Associations.

There are at present doing business within a radius of ten miles of the New York city hall about seventy of these co-operative concerns, most of them having been organized within the past three years. It is estimated that about 30,000 people are interested, either as investors or home builders.

In England the co-operative savings and building movement has made wonderful progress. The registrar's report ordered by the house of commons, which is published in The Building Societies' Gazette, of London, contains a careful analysis of the work done by the building associations in the British Isles during the year 1887. Considerable progress is shown to have been made in the operations during that year, and the number of societies has been increased from 2,297 to 2,318, having 403,421 members as against 381,681 in 1886. The income was £21,141,077, or nearly a half million more than during the preceding year. To show the real progress that these societies have made in the United Kingdom the comparisons are made between the returns of 1878 and 1887, covering a period of nine years.

The figures are:

	1878.	1887.
Number of societies.....	2,297	2,318
Number of members.....	324,427	403,421
Due to shareholders.....	£16,523,153	£26,319,513
Due to depositors.....	8,857,260	15,800,494
Mortgage assets.....	24,628,522	29,302,584
In cash, etc.....	1,122,588	3,497,249

The increased receipts are shown in England, Wales and Scotland, while the Irish societies show a falling off of £19,402 only, as against £47,224 in the year preceding. Mr. Michael J. Brown, in The Philadelphia Ledger, says:

It is confidently expected that the building associations of the United States, including the building society land companies, where houses and lots are being paid for on the installment monthly plan, number over 4,000, with assets averaging not less than \$80,000, or a grand total of \$320,000,000, exceeding that of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales at least \$70,000,000. During the past twenty-four years it is quite possible that the building associations of the United States have turned over to members in cash, for withdrawn and matured shares and canceled mortgages, at least \$500,000,000.—New York Daily News.

The Woodlands Decreased.

Fifty years ago every farm in the eastern, middle and southern states had from five to twenty acres of woodland. These lands not only served many other good purposes, but were natural resting places for birds and served them as safe shelter during the heat of the day. These primitive forests were the home of many species of birds. The writer well remembers the delight experienced in going to the woods in the spring of the year and listening to the songs of the native warblers as they returned from their winter quarters at the south. The shrill whistle of the quail was as familiar to the ears of the farmers as household words. The scream of the blue jay rang through the forest clear and loud. The many species of woodpecker were watched with intense interest as they glided up and down the trunks of the trees, ever and anon rapping, with irresistible force, with their powerful beaks, and frequently drawing forth some huge grub, that had been sapping the life of some monarch of the forest. While watching these ever industrious and useful birds, a scarlet tanager, like a flash of fire, or some other bright bird, would flit by, happy and beautiful. How is it now? The woodman's ax and the pot hunter's gun can tell the sad story. The birds have gone—no home, no resting place, no safety anywhere!

The birds that were so common fifty years ago were mostly insect eating birds, and destroyed millions of noxious insects, and were of inestimable value to the farmer and tiller of the soil. Even the grain eating birds consumed a large number of larvae. The humming birds, supposed by many to subsist wholly upon honey, consume many small beetles and thrips, and thereby confer a benefit to the florist.—Vick's Magazine.

A Victim of Etiquette.

The ridiculous rigidity of Spanish court etiquette was answerable for the death of Philip III. He was busily engaged with his dispatches and state papers, and, the day being cold, a great brazier of burning coals was brought into the room and set down so close to his majesty that soon his royal face was bathed in perspiration. It was not in his nature, however, to find fault or complain, and so he sat in patience, enduring the excessive heat, until the Marquis of Pobar, one of the gentlemen of his chamber, perceiving how seriously he was inconvenienced, told the Duke of Alba, another of the royal body guard, to remove the brazier. No, said the duke, that was the duty of the king's chief steward, the Duke of Usada, who was accordingly sent for. Unfortunately he was not at hand, and before he made his appearance the king was so heated that next day fever supervened, which, acting on a naturally fervid constitution, turned to erysipelas, and then the victim of etiquette died.—Gentleman's Magazine.

The Women of Great Britain.

There are 3,000,000 more women in Great Britain than men. Thirty-seven per cent. of all the women of marriageable age in England are unmarried. Fully one-half of the women of the educated middle class—gentlewomen—of marriageable age are without husbands. Economy is the watchword of the day abroad. British fortunes are shrinking. Ways and means of contracting expenditure are every day topics in British papers. Estates no longer stand the charges upon them involved in the maintenance of such a horde of maiden sisters. Women unused to lifting a finger for themselves are being thrown in ever increasing numbers on their own resources. They have been brought up to no remunerative occupation. They have no business experience. They have no business ideas. They shrink with a painful sensitiveness from contact with a rough and tumble world. There are thousands on thousands of them.—Philadelphia Times.

Mexican Delicacy.

Mexicans have a nice, delicate way of saying even unpleasant things. A young Mexican lady, talking with a prisoner in the penitentiary, politely asked: "How long do you expect to be away from home?"

A lawyer in Mexico writes, politely, of a certain senator: "I have written to Senor — about the documents, and I am awaiting his reply. He has not answered, although there has been plenty of time. I hear he is in jail, and that, of course, handicaps him to some extent."—Youth's Companion.

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